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DIPLOMATICALLY SPEAKING

Venezuelans Set for Fight

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It seemed like any black tie dinner, with elegantly dressed guests sweeping in, a trio of musicians playing a harp and ukuleles.

But it was not ordinary. There was a smell of battle—and victory—in the air at last night's dinner at the Venezuelan Embassy. It was the eve of the big OAS fight over whether or not to impose collective sanctions against Cuba.

As chief protagonist, Venezuela was host. Ambassador and Mrs. Tejera Paris honored the team of seven fighters, the delegation headed by Foreign Minister Iribarren, who was principal honor guest.

Every one of the Venezuelan team members had been fighting for eight months to get the OAS to punish Cuba for its attempt to overthrow the Venezuelan Government last year. The 18 foreign ministers to the historic meeting are here and ready for today's first session, and the word is out: No compromise.

Against this background, guests came in and made polite conversation around the cluster of round tables in the Embassy. Secretary of State and Mrs. Rusk, Undersecretary of State and Mrs. Averell Harriman; from the White House, the Ralph Dungs, Jack Valentis, Tyler Abells; CIA Director and Mrs. John McCone, United States Ambassador to the OAS Elsworth Bunker, World Bank head George Wood, and so on.

The Venezuelan delegation, half of them in army uniform, spoke Spanish and some French, and you could feel it in the air: A battle was imminent, and they expected to win. If you asked, "What if . . . ?" implying defeat, you discovered no one heard you. Polite but deaf.

With the Foreign Minister came his wife, who with the delegation's secretary are the only two women with the visiting delegation.

Secretary Rusk confirmed that he he had visited every foreign pavilion at the World's Fair and could "write home about it" to the various world capitals.

No toasts were made after the tasty dinner which included a specialty from Venezuela: Hearts of palm salad. The sweet, white hearts are canned there.

Other guests included Pakistani Ambassador and Begum Ahmed, Mrs. Al-Ghoussein, wife of the Kuwaiti Ambassador; the Donald MacArthurs, William Fitzgeralds, Drew Pearsons and David Ginsbergs.

A reception celebrating a protest is something new, and the Viet Namese Charge d'Affaires and Mrs. Pham Khac Rau held just that last night at the Embassy.

It was the 10th anniversary of the Geneva accords which

partitioned the Asian country into North and South Viet Nam. While accepting the accords now, South Viet Nam protests against the Communist attack by its northern neighbor, and last night had pictures to prove it.

An exhibit "to prove" the charges against the Viet Cong was shown, photographs of the war and its atrocities. It was a novel sort of "national day" celebration.

A black tie dinner at the Ecuador Embassy last night honored Foreign Minister Gonzales Escudero, also here for the OAS meeting. Ambassador and Mrs. Correa were hosts.

Guests included the Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America Thomas Mann; the President of the Inter-American Development Bank Felipe Herrera; the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Jose Mora; the Deputy Coordinator of the Alliance for Progress William D. Rogers; the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Anthony Solomon; the Director of the International Bank Jorge Mejia Palacio; the Director for Operations for Latin America in the International Bank Gerald Alter; Dr. William Sanders, Mr. Jack Neal, as well as Ambassador Rodrigo Jacome, Permanent Delegate of Ecuador to the Organization of American States.